

# The Constitution of the United States of America

*Courier (yellow) type indicates text that has been modified by Amendments.*

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

## Article. I.

### Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

### Section. 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.

### AMENDMENT XIV

*Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.*

*Note: Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.*

#### Section 2.

*Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, \* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.*

### AMENDMENT XXVI

*Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.*

***Note:** Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

#### Section 1.

*The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.*

The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number

44 of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one  
45 Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to  
46 chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York  
47 six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South  
48 Carolina five, and Georgia three.

49 When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs  
50 of Election to fill such Vacancies.

51 The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of  
52 Impeachment.

53 **Section. 3.**

54 The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, **chosen by the**  
55 **Legislature** thereof for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

56 **AMENDMENT XVII**

57 *Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.*

58 **Note:** Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

59 *The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the*  
60 *people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall*  
61 *have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.*

62 *When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such*  
63 *State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may*  
64 *empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by*  
65 *election as the legislature may direct.*

66 *This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before*  
67 *it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.*

68 Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally  
69 as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of  
70 the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration  
71 of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; **and if Vacancies happen by**  
72 **Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the**  
73 **Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the**  
74 **Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.**

75 **AMENDMENT XVII**

76 *Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.*

77 **Note:** Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

78 *The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the*  
79 *people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall*  
80 *have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.*

81 *When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such*  
82 *State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may*  
83 *empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by*  
84 *election as the legislature may direct.*

85 *This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before*  
86 *it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.*

87 No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a  
88 Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be  
89 chosen.

90 The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be  
91 equally divided.

92 The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice  
93 President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

94 The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on  
95 Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no  
96 Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

97 Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to  
98 hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall  
99 nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

#### 100 **Section. 4.**

101 The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in  
102 each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations,  
103 except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

104 The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall **be on the first Monday**  
105 **in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.**

#### 106 **AMENDMENT XX**

107 *Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.*

108 **Note:** Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment.

#### 109 **Section 2.**

110 *The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the*  
111 *3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.*

#### 112 **Section. 5.**

113 Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority  
114 of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may  
115 be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each  
116 House may provide.

117 Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with  
118 the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

119 Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such  
120 Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any  
121 question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

122 Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than  
123 three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

#### 124 **Section. 6.**

125 The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law,  
126 and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of

127 the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in  
128 going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be  
129 questioned in any other Place.

130 No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office  
131 under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have  
132 been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member  
133 of either House during his Continuance in Office.

134 **Section. 7.**

135 All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or  
136 concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

137 Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law,  
138 be presented to the President of the United States: If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with  
139 his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their  
140 Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass  
141 the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be  
142 reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes  
143 of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the  
144 Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President  
145 within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like  
146 Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it  
147 shall not be a Law.

148 Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be  
149 necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and  
150 before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by  
151 two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the  
152 Case of a Bill.

153 **Section. 8.**

154 The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and  
155 provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises  
156 shall be uniform throughout the United States;

157 To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

158 To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

159 To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the  
160 United States;

161 To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

162 To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

163 To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

164 To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the  
165 exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

166 To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

167 To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of  
168 Nations;

169 To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

170 To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two  
171 Years;

172 To provide and maintain a Navy;

173 To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

174 To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel  
175 Invasions;

176 To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be  
177 employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the  
178 Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

179 To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as  
180 may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of  
181 the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of  
182 the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other  
183 needful Buildings;--And

184 To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all  
185 other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer  
186 thereof.

187 **Section. 9.**

188 The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall  
189 not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may  
190 be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

191 The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or  
192 Invasion the public Safety may require it.

193 No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

194 No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or  
195 enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

196 **AMENDMENT XVI**

197 *Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.*

198 **Note:** *Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.*

199 *The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived,*  
200 *without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.*

201 No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

202 No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of  
203 another; nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

204 No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular  
205 Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to  
206 time.

207 No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust  
208 under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of  
209 any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

210 **Section. 10.**

211 No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin  
212 Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill  
213 of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

214 No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except  
215 what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and  
216 Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all  
217 such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

218 No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time  
219 of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War,  
220 unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

221 **Article. II.**

222 **Section. 1.**

223 The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office  
224 during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as  
225 follows:

226 Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to  
227 the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no  
228 Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be  
229 appointed an Elector.

230 The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two  
231 Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with  
232 themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the  
233 Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit  
234 sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the  
235 President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the  
236 Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall  
237 then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the  
238 President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed;  
239 and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of  
240 Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of  
241 them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on  
242 the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing  
243 the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each  
244 State having one Vote; A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a Member or  
245 Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be  
246 necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person  
247 having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President.  
248 But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse  
249 from them by Ballot the Vice President.

250 **AMENDMENT XII**

251 *Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.*

252 **Note:** *A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.*

253 *The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President,*  
254 *one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in*  
255 *their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-*  
256 *President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons*  
257 *voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify,*  
258 *and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the*  
259 *Senate; -- the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of*  
260 *Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; -- The person having the*  
261 *greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole*  
262 *number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the*  
263 *highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of*  
264 *Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the*  
265 *votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this*  
266 *purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the*  
267 *states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not*  
268 *choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them,*  
269 *before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall*  
270 *act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability*  
271 *of the President. --]\* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall*  
272 *be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no*  
273 *person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-*  
274 *President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a*  
275 *majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to*  
276 *the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.*

277 *\*Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.*

278 **AMENDMENT XX**

279 *Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.*

280 **Note:** *Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In*  
281 *addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.*

282 **Section 3.**

283 *If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have*  
284 *died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen*  
285 *before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to*  
286 *qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified;*  
287 *and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice*  
288 *President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which*  
289 *one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or*  
290 *Vice President shall have qualified.*

291 *The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes;*  
292 *which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.*

293 *No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this*  
294 *Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who*  
295 *shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United*  
296 *States.*

297 *In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation,*  
298 *or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall*  
299 *devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of*  
300 *Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President,*

301 declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act  
302 accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

303 **AMENDMENT XXV**

304 *Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.*

305 **Note:** *Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.*

306 **Section 1.**

307 *In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall*  
308 *become President.*

309 **Section 2.**

310 *Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice*  
311 *President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.*

312 **Section 3.**

313 *Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the*  
314 *House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of*  
315 *his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties*  
316 *shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.*

317 **Section 4.**

318 *Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments*  
319 *or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the*  
320 *Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is*  
321 *unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the*  
322 *powers and duties of the office as Acting President.*

323 *Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of*  
324 *the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers*  
325 *and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the*  
326 *executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to*  
327 *the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written*  
328 *declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon*  
329 *Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If*  
330 *the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not*  
331 *in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote*  
332 *of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice*  
333 *President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall*  
334 *resume the powers and duties of his office.*

335 The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased  
336 nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period  
337 any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

338 Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:--"I do solemnly  
339 swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my  
340 Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

341 **Section. 2.**

342 The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the  
343 several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of  
344 the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their  
345 respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United  
346 States, except in Cases of Impeachment.



347 He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of  
348 the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate,  
349 shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other  
350 Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be  
351 established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think  
352 proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

353 The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by  
354 granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

355 **Section. 3.**

356 He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their  
357 Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions,  
358 convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time  
359 of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and  
360 other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the  
361 Officers of the United States.

362 **Section. 4.**

363 The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on  
364 Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

365 **Article III.**

366 **Section. 1.**

367 The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the  
368 Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall  
369 hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation,  
370 which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

371 **Section. 2.**

372 The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the  
373 United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;--to all Cases affecting  
374 Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;--to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;--to  
375 Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;--to Controversies between two or more States;--  
376 between a State and Citizens of another State;--between Citizens of different States;--between  
377 Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens  
378 thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

379 **AMENDMENT XI**

380 *Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.*

381 **Note:** Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.

382 *The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity,*  
383 *commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens*  
384 *or Subjects of any Foreign State.*

385 In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be  
386 Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme  
387 Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such  
388 Regulations as the Congress shall make.

389 The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the  
390 State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall  
391 be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

392 **Section. 3.**

393 Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their  
394 Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two  
395 Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

396 The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work  
397 Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

398 **Article. IV.**

399 **Section. 1.**

400 Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every  
401 other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and  
402 Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

403 **Section. 2.**

404 The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

405 A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in  
406 another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be  
407 removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

408 No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping  
409 into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged  
410 from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to  
411 whom such Service or Labour may be due.

412 **AMENDMENT XIII**

413 *Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.*

414 **Note:** *A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.*

415 **Section 1.**

416 *Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have*  
417 *been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.*

418 **Section 2.**

419 *Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*

420 **Section. 3.**

421 New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within  
422 the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of  
423 States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

424 The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the  
425 Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed  
426 as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

427 **Section. 4.**

428 The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall  
429 protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the  
430 Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence.

431 **Article. V.**

432 The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this  
433 Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention  
434 for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this  
435 Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three  
436 fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no  
437 Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner  
438 affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent,  
439 shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

440 **Article. VI.**

441 All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid  
442 against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

443 This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties  
444 made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land;  
445 and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the  
446 Contrary notwithstanding.

447 The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all  
448 executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or  
449 Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any  
450 Office or public Trust under the United States.

451 **Article. VII.**

452 The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution  
453 between the States so ratifying the Same.

454 The Word, "the," being interlined between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, the Word "Thirty" being  
455 partly written on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page, The Words "is tried" being interlined between  
456 the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word "the" being interlined between the forty third  
457 and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

458 Attest William Jackson Secretary

459 Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the  
460 Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of  
461 America the Twelfth In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

462 *On the internet the names of the signers are listed - [www.Beeville.Net/TheConstitution](http://www.Beeville.Net/TheConstitution)*

463 **Constitutional Amendments 1-10: The Bill of Rights**

464 Note: The following text is a transcription of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution in their original form.  
465 These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."

466 **Amendment I**

467 Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or  
468 abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition  
469 the Government for a redress of grievances.

470 **Amendment II**

471 A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear  
472 Arms, shall not be infringed.

473 **Amendment III**

474 No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of  
475 war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

476 **Amendment IV**

477 The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable  
478 searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported  
479 by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be  
480 seized.

481 **Amendment V**

482 No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or  
483 indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual  
484 service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in  
485 jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be  
486 deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use,  
487 without just compensation.

488 **Amendment VI**

489 In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of  
490 the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously  
491 ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the  
492 witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the  
493 Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

494 **Amendment VII**

495 In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall  
496 be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than  
497 according to the rules of the common law.

498 **Amendment VIII**

499 Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

500 **Amendment IX**

501 The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained  
502 by the people.

503 **Amendment X**

504 The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved  
505 to the States respectively, or to the people.

506 **AMENDMENT XI**

507 *Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.*

508 **Note:** Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.

509 The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced  
510 or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any  
511 Foreign State.

512 **AMENDMENT XII**

513 *Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.*

514 **Note:** A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.

515 The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of  
516 whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the  
517 person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make  
518 distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the  
519 number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the  
520 government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; -- the President of the Senate shall, in  
521 the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be  
522 counted; -- The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number  
523 be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the  
524 persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of  
525 Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall  
526 be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of  
527 a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a  
528 choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever  
529 the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next  
530 following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death  
531 or other constitutional disability of the President. --]\* The person having the greatest  
532 number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole  
533 number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list,  
534 the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole  
535 number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person  
536 constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

537 *\*Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.*

538 **AMENDMENT XX**

539 *Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.*

540 **Note:** Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a  
541 portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

542 **Section 3.**  
543 *If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the*  
544 *Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time*  
545 *fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice*  
546 *President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law*  
547 *provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring*  
548 *who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such*  
549 *person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.*

550 **AMENDMENT XIII**

551 *Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.*

552 **Note:** A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

553 **Section 1.**

554 Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been  
555 duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

556 **Section 2.**

557 Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

558 **AMENDMENT XIV**

559 *Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.*

560 **Note:** Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

561 **Section 1.**

562 All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the  
563 United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge  
564 the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty,  
565 or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the  
566 laws.

567 **Section 2.**

568 Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting  
569 the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any  
570 election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in  
571 Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to  
572 any of the male inhabitants of such State, **being twenty-one years of age,\*** and citizens of the United  
573 States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation  
574 therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number  
575 of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

576 **AMENDMENT XXVI**

577 *Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.*

578 **Note:** Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

579 **Section 1.**

580 *The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be*  
581 *denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.*

582 **Section 3.**

583 No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold  
584 any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as

585 a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an  
586 executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in  
587 insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a  
588 vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

589 **Section 4.**

590 The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of  
591 pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither  
592 the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or  
593 rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts,  
594 obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

595 **Section 5.**

596 The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

597 *\*Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

598 **AMENDMENT XV**

599 *Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.*

600 **Section 1.**

601 The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any  
602 State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

603 **Section 2.**

604 The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

605 **AMENDMENT XVI**

606 *Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.*

607 **Note:** Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.

608 The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without  
609 apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

610 **AMENDMENT XVII**

611 *Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.*

612 **Note:** Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

613 The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people  
614 thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the  
615 qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

616 When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State  
617 shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: *Provided*, That the legislature of any State may empower the  
618 executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the  
619 legislature may direct.

620 This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it  
621 becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

622 **AMENDMENT XVIII**

623 *Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.*

624 **Section 1.**

625 After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors  
626 within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to  
627 the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

628 **Section 2.**

629 The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate  
630 legislation.

631 **Section 3.**

632 This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the  
633 legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the  
634 submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

635 **AMENDMENT XIX**

636 *Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.*

637 The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any  
638 State on account of sex.

639 Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

640 **AMENDMENT XX**

641 *Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.*

642 **Note:** Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion  
643 of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

644 **Section 1.**

645 The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of  
646 Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have  
647 ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

648 **Section 2.**

649 The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of  
650 January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

651 **Section 3.**

652 If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice  
653 President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the  
654 beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act  
655 as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein  
656 neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or  
657 the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President  
658 or Vice President shall have qualified.

659 **Section 4.**

660 The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of  
661 Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for



662 the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the  
663 right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

664 **Section 5.**

665 Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

666 **Section 6.**

667 This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the  
668 legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

669 **AMENDMENT XXI**

670 *Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.*

671 **Section 1.**

672 The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

673 **Section 2.**

674 The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use  
675 therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

676 **Section 3.**

677 This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by  
678 conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the  
679 submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

680 **AMENDMENT XXII**

681 *Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.*

682 **Section 1.**

683 No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office  
684 of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected  
685 President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person  
686 holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person  
687 who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article  
688 becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

689 **Section 2.**

690 This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the  
691 legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States  
692 by the Congress.

693 **AMENDMENT XXIII**

694 *Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.*

695 **Section 1.**

696 The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress  
697 may direct:

698 A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and  
699 Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than  
700 the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered,  
701 for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they  
702 shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

703 **Section 2.**  
704 The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

705 **AMENDMENT XXIV**

706 *Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.*

707 **Section 1.**  
708 The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President,  
709 for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or  
710 abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

711 **Section 2.**  
712 The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

713 **AMENDMENT XXV**

714 *Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.*

715 **Note:** Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

716 **Section 1.**  
717 In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become  
718 President.

719 **Section 2.**  
720 Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President  
721 who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

722 **Section 3.**  
723 Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
724 Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and  
725 until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the  
726 Vice President as Acting President.

727 **Section 4.**  
728 Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of  
729 such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the  
730 Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the  
731 powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office  
732 as Acting President.

733 Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
734 House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of  
735 his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of  
736 such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the  
737 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to  
738 discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within  
739 forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the  
740 latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to  
741 assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers  
742 and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise,  
743 the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

744 **AMENDMENT XXVI**

745 *Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.*

746 **Note:** Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

747 **Section 1.**

748 The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or  
749 abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

750 **Section 2.**

751 The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

752 **AMENDMENT XXVII**

753 *Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.*

754 No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an  
755 election of representatives shall have intervened.